

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
April 8, 2015

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Susannah Everett, Shawn Santesiere, Kristin Schwab, Paul Shapiro, Matt Hart, Bill Lennon, Susanna Bekman (guest), Adam St.Denis, (guest), Don Hoyle (guest), Gary Bent (guest), Allen Corson (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Stoddard.

Approval of the March 11, 2015 meeting minutes was deferred since there was not a quorum when the meeting started.

Adam St. Denis, from the Institute for Sustainable Energy, reviewed the municipal energy data that has been entered into EPA's portfolio manager. The tool can be used to benchmark buildings and help achieve climate goals. Allen Corson stated that he is working on retrofitting the municipal buildings with LED lighting and switching over the school electric hot water heaters to gas. Matt Hart reported that they are examining a solar installation on the landfill. The Institute for Sustainable Energy can provide further assistance in training staff on how to use portfolio manager. Allen will start looking at the information that is in portfolio manager.

Shapiro, Everett and Hart left the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Schwab talked about the April 7, 2015 meeting she and her plant design students had with Rudy Favretti and town staff John Carrington, Brian LaVoie, Will Gresh and Curt Vincente about sustainable landscaping around the Town Hall, Community Center, and playground area. The students' final project for the semester is to create a landscape design for the town hall complex. Schwab hopes to get feedback from staff and the committee on these designs. She then plans on working with a summer student intern to create a final plan.

Gary Bent reported to the committee on the natural gas pipeline expansion that is going through Connecticut. The primary concern of the expansion is the leakage of methane gas, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. The Connecticut expansion is broken into three separate projects - the Algonquin project which has already been approved and the Atlantic Bridge and Access Northeast projects which have not approved. Dr. Bent asked that the committee sign a petition to stop expansion. Stoddard suggested leaving it up to individual members to sign the petition rather than the full committee. Dr. Bent will be asking for Council action on stopping expansion as well.

Santesiere reported that the bike group now has a name, Bike Mansfield, and a website. Through the Mansfield Community Center, there are a series of clinics being offered— bike maintenance, bike safety and a bike fair. Looking ahead, they will offer summer Sunday morning rides and hope to lobby for downtown sharrows. Members are invited to attend the meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at the Nash Zimmer Transportation Center.

Future agenda items include the creation of an Ad Hoc Climate Action Task Force and energy data follow up.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton